PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey P.G. #82A-38 (old 77-5)

Building Date: ca. 1840

Building Name: Solitude

Location: 6705 South Osborne Road

Private/Residential/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description:

Solitude is a two-story frame, gable roof dwelling, roughly square in plan, with a long south gable wing. The house faces Osborne Road, to its east, but is set back from the road, on a tree-shaded knoll. The threebay east facade has entrance in the third, north bay through a six-panel door surmounted by a fanlight with a keystone, a reproduction colonial surround. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash with paneled wooden shutters. A plain boxed cornice surmounts the facade. The house is sided with lapped beaded horizontal wood siding, which was installed when the house was remodeled in the early 1960's. The roof is covered with synthetic shingles. The south gable end of the main block has two exterior corbelled brick chimneys rebuilt in 1964. There is a double 6/6 sash window centered at loft level. The south gable end is partially covered by the three bay, two-story gable wing which projects from the west half of the facade and encloses the west chimney. The interior of Solitude has a north side hall measuring 8 feet by 29 feet, and two south parlors. south wing, containing a dining room and kitchen, is entered from the southwest parlor. The interior was extensively renovated in 1964. There is a complex of outbuildings to the south and west of the house. All appear to date to the early 20th century. Far to the northwest of the house is a two-by-one-bay, gable roof summer kitchen set on low cement blocks. Formerly attached to the back of the house, it was removed and re-situated when the house was renovated in 1964.

<u>Significance</u>

Solitude is significant as a sidehall, two parlor plan farmhouse, a vernacular style popular among successful planters, merchants and professionals from the 1840's through the 1860's in Prince George's County. It was constructed around 1840 with the rectangular, two story main block and a small south one or two story kitchen wing. In 1964 the house was extensively renovated, including rebuilding of the chimneys, re-siding with beaded wood siding, constructing a new front stoop and installing a Colonial entry door surround, as well as interior renovations. The two story, one bay kitchen wing was extended two bays to the south, and a screened sun porch was added to the rear of the wing.

Acreage: 55 acres

Survey No. P.G.#82A-38 (old 77-5)

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Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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Solitude is a two-story frame, gable roof dwelling, roughly square in plan, with a long south gable wing. The house faces Osborne Road, to its east, but is set back from the road, on a tree-shaded knoll.

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The three-bay east facade has entrance in the third, north bay through a six-panel door surmounted by a fanlight with a keystone. The door surround is a reproduction colonial surround, with flanking fluted pilasters supporting an enclosed dentiled triangular pediment above the entranceway. Windows are 6/6 double-hung wood sash with paneled wooden shutters painted dark green. The narrow window surrounds have a raised outer molding. A plain boxed cornice surmounts the facade.

The house is sided with lapped beaded horizontal wood siding, which was installed when the house was remodeled in the early 1960's. The roof is covered with synthetic shingles, and is set on a brick base, without a basement.

The two bay north gable end has a 6/6 sash window centered at the third story level, and two windows at the second and first story. There are kick boards at the cornice ends and a crown-molded raking board along the gable.

The west (rear) side of the main block is three bays, a mirror image of the east (main) facade. The entry in the first, north bay is the rear entry to the main stair hall. The four-panel door has a surround with a complex profile, which may be a reproduction. The window treatment is the same as that on the main facade. A brick patio covers the lawn on this side of the house.

The south gable end of the main block has two exterior corbelled brick chimneys, the east chimney with weathering at first and second story levels. Both chimneys were rebuilt in 1964. There is a double 6/6 sash window centered at loft level. The south gable end is partially covered by the three bay, two-story gable wing which projects from the west half of the facade and encloses the west chimney.

Section 7 Page

Description (continued)

The south wing has the same window, siding and roof treatment as the main block. It rests on a brick foundation. The oldest portion of the wing is the north bay, that closest to the house. The south two bays and the hipped roof, one story lean-to across the west (rear) facade of the wing were constructed in 1964. A wide space between the north and middle window on the east and west elevations, as well as a sag in the roof ridge, are indicators of the two added south bays. The south gable end of the wing has an exterior corbelled chimney with weathering on the first and second story level, similar in detail to the chimneys on the main block.

Projecting on the west side of the wing is a two-by-two-bay, one-story hipped roof screened pavillion, set on a brick base. This porch or pavillion was constructed after 1964.

The interior of Solitude has a north side hall measuring 8 feet by 29 feet, and two south parlors. The south wing, containing a dining room and kitchen, is entered from the southwest parlor. The interior was extensively renovated in 1964.

The six-panel entry door is an old door brought by the present owners from Virginia. The two step architrave surround incorporates the fanlight. There is a wooden keystone above the fanlight and wedge-shaped blocks at the springing of the round-arch door surround. The door has a large brass box lock from another Prince George's County Historic Site, P.G. #79-4, Mount Pleasant. The open string stair rises along the north wall of the hall, turns 90 degrees at a landing across the west end of the hall, turns 90 degrees again and rises along the south wall to the second floor. The stair ends have simple arched brackets. The balusters are all identical, slender tapering spindles, two to a step, with a turned portion at the lower end. The newel post is deeply turned and has a circular base block. There are turned balusters on rectangular base blocks at each of the stair turns. The stair is finished to the third story level, and has a long fine oval handrail. The spandrel is paneled with vertical rectangular panels. A closet under the stair has an old door of two vertical panels, with "HL" hinges.

The flooring in the hall, parlors and upper floors is the original pine flooring. The two-step architrave door and window surrounds, coved cornice in the hall and parlors, and 10-1/2 inch capped base boarding were installed in 1964.

Originally, the hall had an entry in the south wall to each of the two parlors. The entry from the hall to the southwest parlor was removed in 1964. The entry from the hall into the southeast parlor is through a pair of double doors of three panels each, installed during the 1964 renovation.

Section 7 Page $\frac{3}{2}$

Description (continued)

The two south parlors are warmed by a hearth on the south wall of each. The mantels are 18th century wood mantels from Virginia, installed in the house after 1964. The mantels are very similar, both high with-a square hearth opening flanked by pilasters with capitals that support the mantel self. Both mantels have a paneled frieze and a decorative molding beneath the entabliture that supports the mantel shelf. The parlors are connected by a very wide, high rectangular opening which once had double doors. The moldings in the parlor are the same as those in the hall.

The second story of the main block has a north hall with a bath installed in the small room at its east end. There are two bedrooms over the south parlors below. There are no hearths in the bedrooms. There were stove pipe holes in the chimneys. It is unclear whether there were ever hearths in the rooms.

The stair rises to the finished third story. The stair landing between first and second and second and third stories are lighted by the same window, which is crossed by the upper stair landing. The third story has a north hall and one large south room. The south room was formerly two small rooms, from which the partition was removed in 1964.

The south wing is entered from the southwest corner of the southwest parlor. The room first entered is a dining room, formerly the kitchen, which was remodeled in 1964 when a new kitchen was added at the south end of the wing. The room has a lower ceiling than the main block. The flooring is original but the base boarding, chair rail and ceiling cornice are all ca. 1960's moldings. A ceiling medallion in the dining room, as well as those in the parlors and first and second story halls also date to the 1960's. There is no hearth in the dining room. The enclosed chimney on the north wall of the room probably has a closed hearth. The closest in the northeast corner of the room, by the side of the chimney, is original. The brass box lock on this door is well as others in the house are old, brought by the present owners from England.

The dining room was extended by a one-story bay to the west in 1964. A one-story screened pavillion or porch, also dating to the 1960's, is reached through double Frnech doors in the west wall of the room. There is a bedroom on the second story, above the dining room. The south two bays of the wing, consisting of the kitchen on the first story and a bedroom on the second, were constructed in 1964.

Solitude has a complex of outbuildings to the south and west of the house. The gravel drive which approaches the house from Osborne Road passes along the north side of the house and loops around the west or rear. A dirt farm road splits off from the main drive, crosses the west portion of the yard and then loops to the south. A cattle shed, barn, frame garage and corn crib are aligned along the south side of the farm road. All have white-painted board and batten siding and standing seam metal roofs. All appear to date to the early 20th century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Description (continued)

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Closer to the house, in the west yard, is a high one story board and batten structure that was renovated ca. 1960's from a smoke house to a stable. There is a standing-seam metal, gable roof. Entry is through a split door on the east side. The wood sill, set directly on the ground, is deteriorating. Metal pins for old door hinges project from the door frame.

Far to the northwest of the house is a two-by-one-bay, gable roof summer kitchen set on low cement blocks. This structure formerly was attached to the back of the house, and was removed and re-situated when the house was renovated in 1964. The building is covered with patched, narrow lapped wood siding. There are boxed side cornices and kick boards on the gable ends. The 6/6 sash windows have narrow surrounds with an inner bead. The entrance is in the south gable end through a central four-panel door. The interior has plaster walls and narrow vertical boarded wainscoting covering the lower portion of the walls. The interior door and window surrounds are plain, wide boards.

The grounds are extensively landscaped, including a line of maple trees which buffers the sloping front lawn from Osborne Road. The entrance drive is lined with evergreens. Two old maples are set in the yard just north of the house. Two holly trees flank the entrance drive as it nears the house. The east, front face of the south wing is hidden behind a large magnolia tree at the southeast corner of the main block, as well as a maple and two holly trees. The drive as it loops around the rear of the house is lined by dogwoods.

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vernacular style popular among successful planters, merchants and professionals from the 1840's through the 1860's in Prince George's County. $^{\rm 1}$ Solitude was constructed around 1840 with the rectangular, two story main block and a small south one or two story kitchen wing. In 1964 the house was extensively renovated, including rebuilding of the chimneys, re-siding with beaded wood siding, constructing a new front stoop and installing a Colonial entry door surround, as well as interior renovations. The two story, one bay kitchen wing was extended two bays to the south, and a screened sun porch was added to the rear of the wing. 2

Solitude was probably built shortly after Levi Osborn, acquired 272 acres of Mt. Airy in 1840.³ Osborn, a planter, acquired tracts called Charles Hills and Child's Portion in 1849.⁴ The resulting 374 acre farm encompassed both sides of what is now Osborne Road and was called Solitude Farm.

After Osborne's death in 1861, the farm was held by his daughter, Sarah Ann Osborn, through 1875. She then sold it to her brother, J. Alfred Osborn, who was also a farmer. At his death in 1894, Osborn left the property to his wife, Julia Hall Osborn, with some interest in the property for the Baltimore Association for the Improvement of the Poor. When Julia Hall Osborn sold the property in 1903, it was improved by a "double dwelling house", two tenant houses, five barns, a stable, a corn house and other outbuildings. Levi Osborne and Charlotte Osborn, his wife, as well as J. Alfred Osborn are buried in the Osborn-Talburtt family cemetery, on the Bean farm at 10907 Westphalia Road. The state of the property in 1903, it was improved by a "double dwelling house", two tenant houses, five barns, a stable, a corn house and other outbuildings. Levi Osborne and Charlotte Osborn, his wife, as well as J. Alfred Osborn are buried in the Osborn-Talburtt family cemetery, on the Bean farm at 10907 Westphalia Road.

Lansdale G. Sasscer acquired Solitude in the mid-twentieth century and sold it to his son, Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr. in 1963. The Sasscers presently reside there, with a surrounding 55 acre property. A part of the original farm property is now encompassed by the Maryvale Subdivision.8

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Section 8 Page 2

Notes

- 1 Extant examples of this house type in Prince George's County include: ca. 1840's: P.G. #70-17, 84-20, 87B-8; from ca. 1850's: 82A-13, 86A-5 and 87B-5; from ca. 1860's: 77-11 and 86A-10; from ca. 1870's: 79-17. Of these, 77-11 is altered so that the original plan is not easily distinguished. 82A-13, 84-20 and 87B-5 have exterior chimneys as does Solitude. 79-19 and 86A-5 have significant additions, changing the original plan.
- ² Interview with Anne M. Sasscer, May 1987.
- 3 Land Records of Prince George's County, JBB 1:29.
- ⁴ Land Records, JBB 5:549; and Tax Assessments, District 3, 1850, Volume 11046; and United States Census, Prince George's County, District 3, 1850, #551.
- ⁵ Land Records, H.B. 7:504; and United States Census, 1880, #46.
- 6 Land Records, 11:270 and Equity #2147, recorded JWB 33:1.
- ⁷ Stones and Bones, Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Inc., Bowie, Maryland, 1984, pg. 591.
- 8 Land Records, 2902:158; and interview with Anne M. Sasscer, May 1987.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.C.#82A-38

see notes, #8

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

PG: 82A-38

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

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The main block of the house is a two story, Federal style, frame building with a three bay, main (east) facade. The doorway is in the north bay with transom and sidelights. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. On the south end there are double internal chimneys. The cornice is boxed. The siding is beaded clapboards.

There is a two story addition on the south end.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

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Location	6705	Osborne	Road,	Upper	Marlboro,	Md.
Open to	Public	уes	x	no		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Solitude is a frame house with a gable roof, built in two parts. Although each part is two stories high and three bays wide, the north part is narrower and deeper than the south part. There are two chimneys on either side of the ridge at the point where the two parts of the house join. A single exterior chimney is at the south gable end, just west of the ridge. The windows are six-over-six and have shutters. The main, east entrance is in the sixth bay. The molded, six-paneled door has a fanlight, pedimented frontispiece and reeded pilasters. There are many large, old trees in the yard.

Levi Osbourn purchased part of the Mount Airy tract in 1840 and built his home there soon afterwards. Old records refer to the place as Solitude Farm. Although this house has been modernized and beautified, it is a typical Prince George's frame farm house of the early to mid-1800's.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

PG: 82A-38

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC	Solitude Farm		•	•
AND/OR COMMON				
MAD) OH COMMON	Solitude			
[2] LOCATION	J	•		
STREET & NUMBER	_	•		
Giller Giller	6705 Osborne Road		Fourth	
CITY, TOWN	Upper Marlboro X	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	BICT
STATE	Maryland		COUNTY Prince George	
CLASSIFIC	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Om Tools 10				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XX CCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
XXBUILDING(S)	XXPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
STRUCTURE SITE	_BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	_WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO ·	MILITARY	OTHER.
OWNER O	F PROPERTY i Mrs. Lansdale G. Sas	scer, Jr.	Telephone #: 30	01-627-2584
	Box 550		Maryland 2087	
CHY, TOWN Upper	Marlboro	VICINITY OF	STATE,	zip code
LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	APTION	Liber #: 2902	
COURTHOUSE.			Folio #: 158	
REGISTRY OF DEEDS	Courthouse S,ETC.		10110 #>-	
STREET & NUMBER			Maryland	
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
	Upper Marlboro			
REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	5	
TITLE				
DATE		FEDERAL	_STATE XCOUNTY _LOCA	NL.
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
CITY, YOWN			STATE	
				The state of the s

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

XEXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS

__UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE.

__FAIR

__UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Solitude is a frame house with a gable roof, built in two parts. Although each part is two stories high and three bays wide the north part is narrower and deepter than the south part. There are two chimneys on either side of the ridge at the point where the two parts of the house join. A single exterior chimney is at the south gable end, just west of the ridge. The windows are six-over-six and have shutters. The main, east entrance is in the sixth bay. The moulded, six paneled door has a fanlight, pedimented frontispiece and reeded pilasters. There are many large, old trees in the yard.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANOSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW ·	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART .	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRYINVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
SPECIFIC DAT	ES about 1840	BUILDER/ARC	HITECT	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Levi Osbourn purchased part of the Mount Airy tract in 1840 and built his home there soon afterwards. Old records refer to the place as Solitude Farm. Although this house has been modernized and beautified it is a typical Prince George's frame farm house of the early to mid-1800's.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Prince George's Co. Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, Md. JB#4/324, HB#7/504, JBB#5/549, JBB#1/29, JBB#1/27

Prince George's Co. Probate Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlbore, Md. Wills - WAJ#1/196 and JBP#!/206 Administration #1537

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECE	SSARY
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
, j ,	•
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES STATE	S OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY
M FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME/TITLE Margaret W. Cook	
ORGANIZATION P.G. Historical andCultural	
STREET & NUMBER 9110 Brandywine Road	TELEPHONE 599-6776
Clinton, Md.	20735

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust The Shaw House, 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438

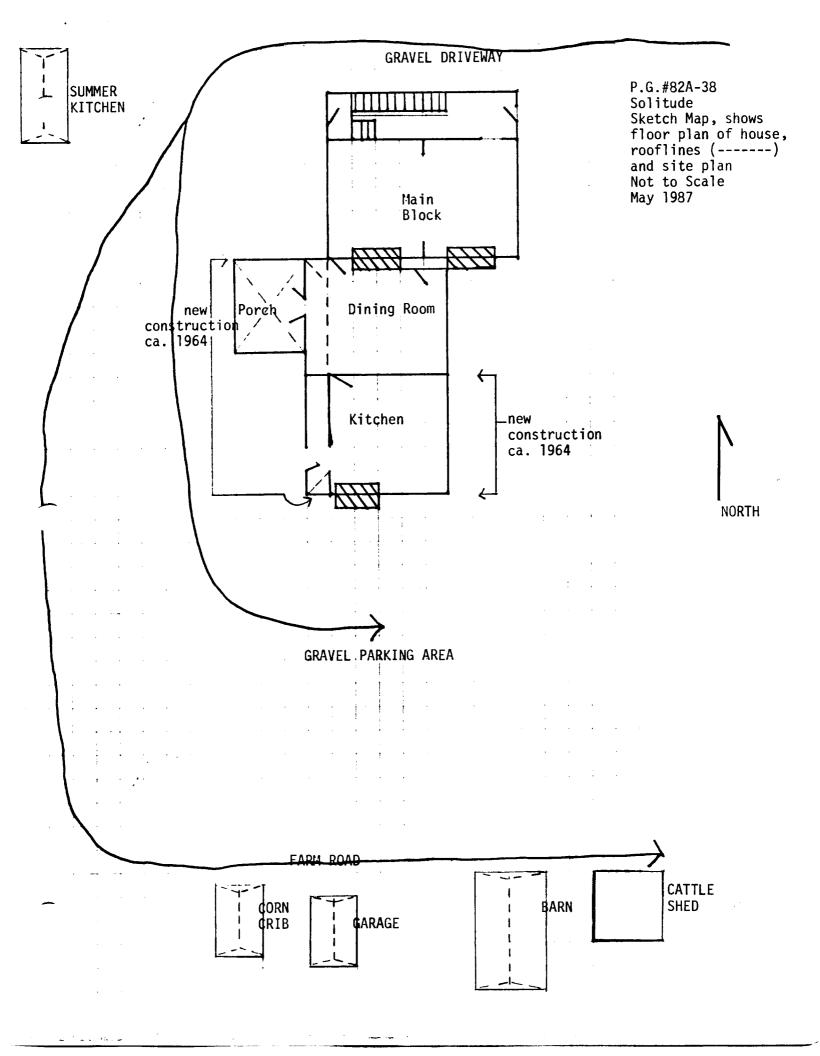
Chain of Title P.G. #82A-38 Solitude

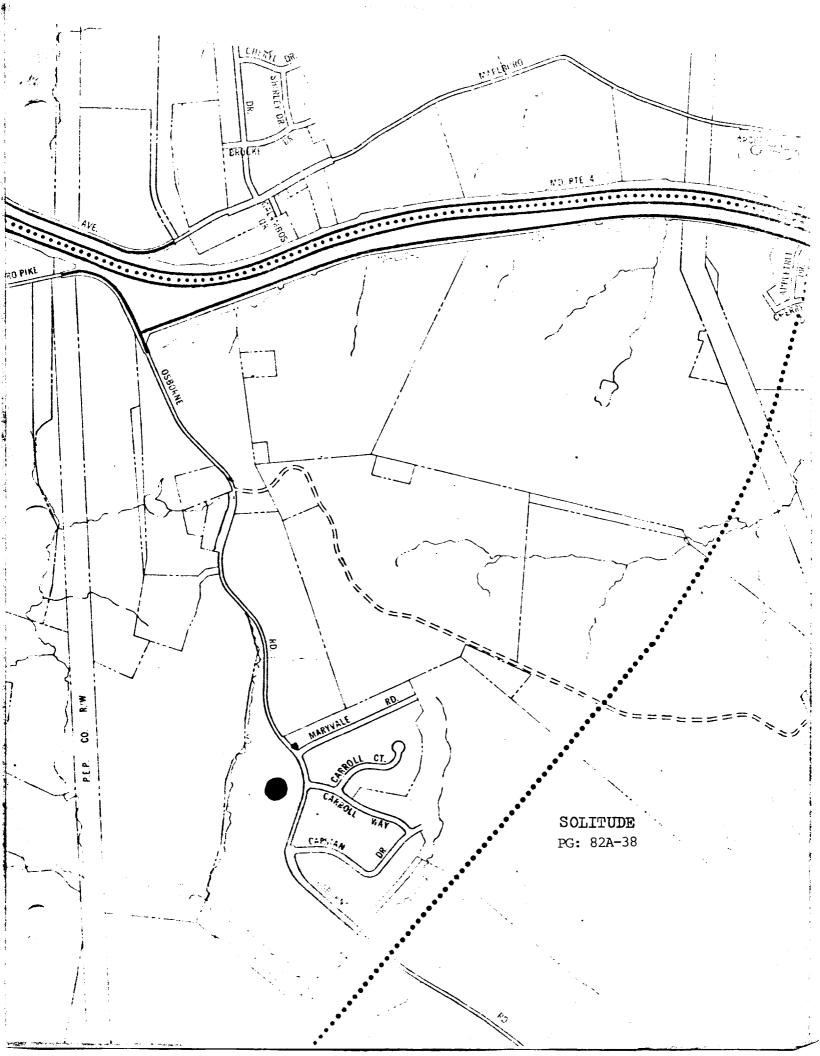
	33.1.3223
2902:158 15 Nov. 1963 Deed	Lansdale G. Sasscer and Agnes C. Sasscer to Lansdale G. Sasscer, Jr. and Anne M. Sasscer. For \$10 grantors convey that land in Melwood Election District, 56.81 acres.
30:422 7 July 1906 Deed	Julius E. and Emma J. Coffren to Pinkney E. and Thomas Coffren. For \$10 grantors convey those parcels of 274 acres and 91 acres.
13:243 17 March 1903 Mortgage	Julius E. and Martha A. Coffren to Savings Institution of Sandy spring, Md. Grantors indebted to grantee for \$5,000. To secure debt, mortgage land obtained March 5, 1903, 358 acres called Solitude.
11:270 4 March 1903 Deed	Julia Hall Osborn of D.C. to Julius E. Coffren. For \$10 grantor conveys all that parcel obtained JB4:324, 274 acres and a second tract of 91 acres.
5:84 10 July 1901 Mortgage	Julia Hall Osborn is indebted to Mary A. L. Carpenter for \$700. To secure the loan, mortgages lands including Solitude, 358 acres. Metes and bounds listed in JB4:328.
JB4:328 6 Jan. 1899 Mortgage	Julia Hall Osborn to Mary A. L. Carpenter. Whereas mortgagor is indebted to Carpenter for \$6,600, to secure debt, grants all lands in Prince George's County which belonged to J. Alfred Osborn at his death.
JB4:324 29 Nov. 1898 Deed	James H. Smith and Caleb C. Magruder, trustee. The Baltimore Association for the Improvement of the Poor, Sarah Ann Osborn and Julia Hall Osborn, widow. By Equity 2147 involving real estate of J. Alfred Osborn dec'd. The property was sold to Julia Hall Osborn for \$5,430. Parties of first, second and third parts convey all interest to Julia Hall Osborn, a tract called Solitude, 358 acres.
JB 1:206 22 Nov. 1894 Will	J. Alfred Osborn to wife Julia - all property while unmarried - at death or marriage, all property to Baltimore Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.
H.B. 7:504 30 July 1875 Indenture	Sarah Ann Osborn to J. Alfred Osborn, her brother. For \$10 grantor conveys all title to late father's farm, 374 acres, composed of several tracts - Child's Portion, Charles Hills, Mount Airy etc.
WAJ 1:196 20 Sept. 1861 Will	Levi Osborn to wife - all real estate, at her death, land to be equally divided between son William Harry and daughter Sarah Ann. Son Alfred has been advanced \$15,000 to purchase farm where he resides.

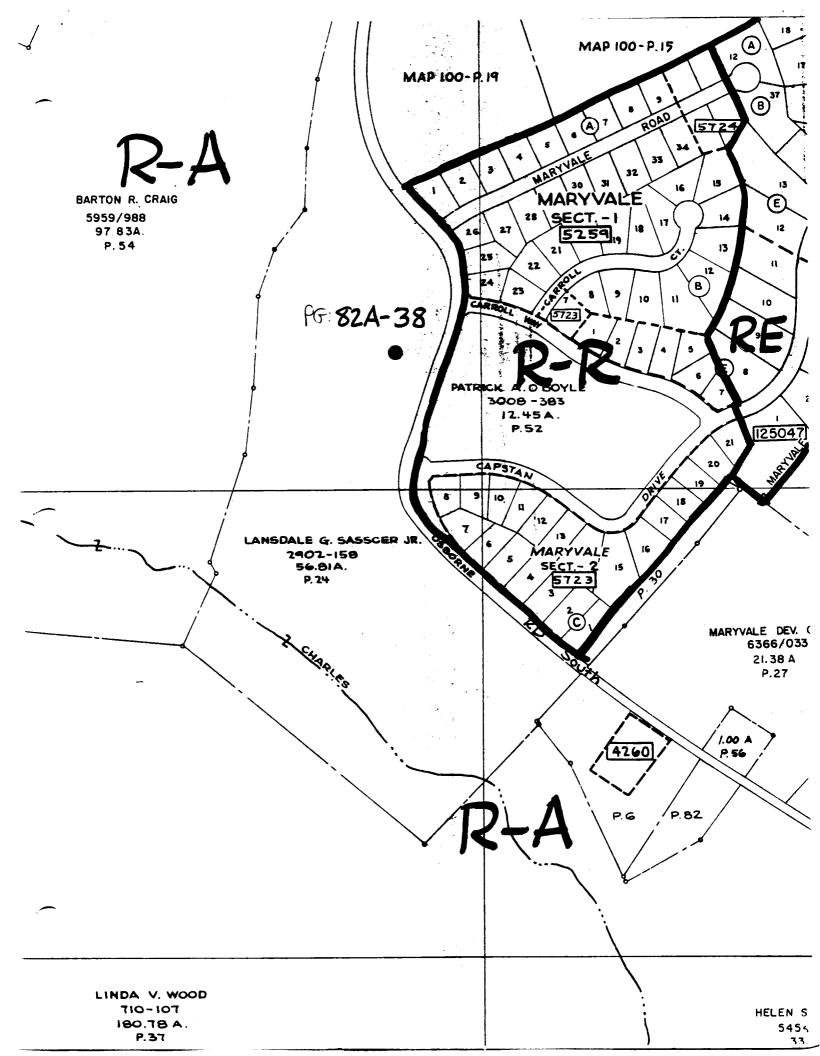
JBB 5:549 31 March 1849 Indenture Richard Osborn and Margaret to Levi Osborne. For \$10 grantors convey "Charles Hills" - 91 acres sold to Richard Osborn by John Johnson, Trustee - 7 May 1836.

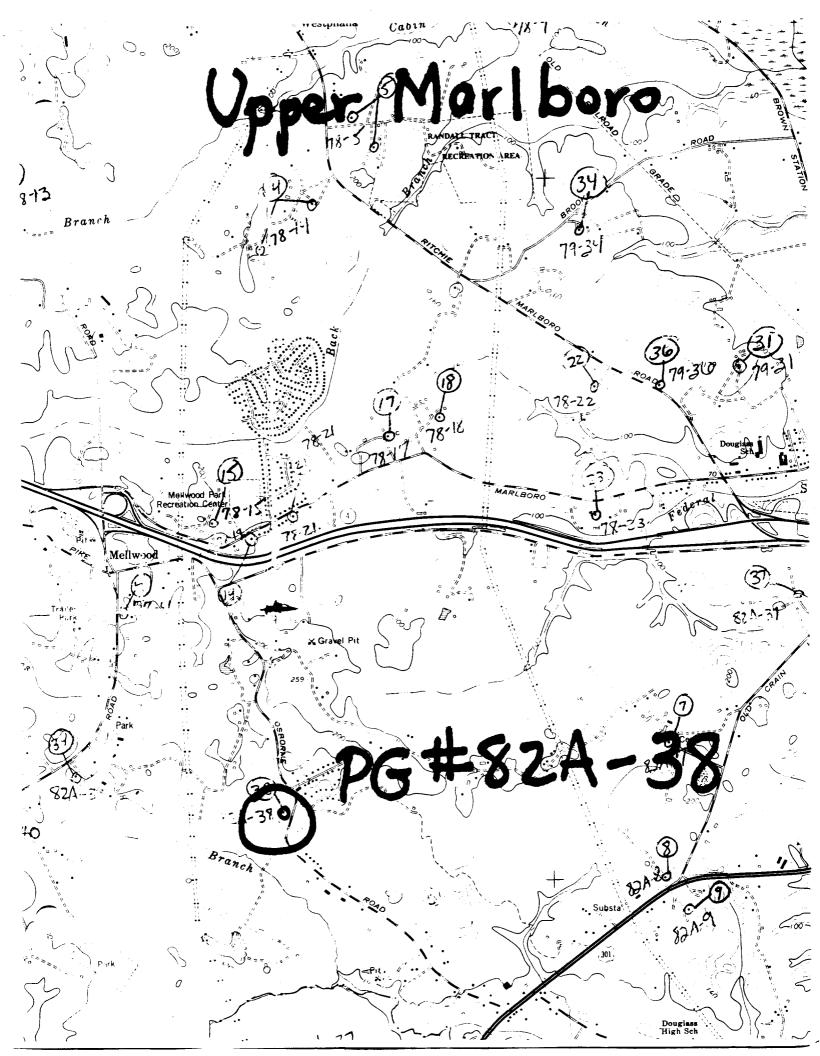
JBB 1:29 11 Feb. 1840 Indenture Nathanial M. McGregor to Levi Osborn. For 11,234 grantors convey a parcel commonly called Mt. Airy.

JBB 1:27 17 Dec. 1839 Indenture George W. Biscoe to Nathaniel M. McGregor. By decree of Court sitting in Equity - 24 Oct. 1827, Biscoe appointed Trustee to sell land called Mt. Airy, sold to Nathaniel M. McGregor.











Solitude
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
East elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



Solitude
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
West elevation
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



5

P.G. #82A-38

Solitude
Prince George;s County
Marina King
May 1987
Guest House, South
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



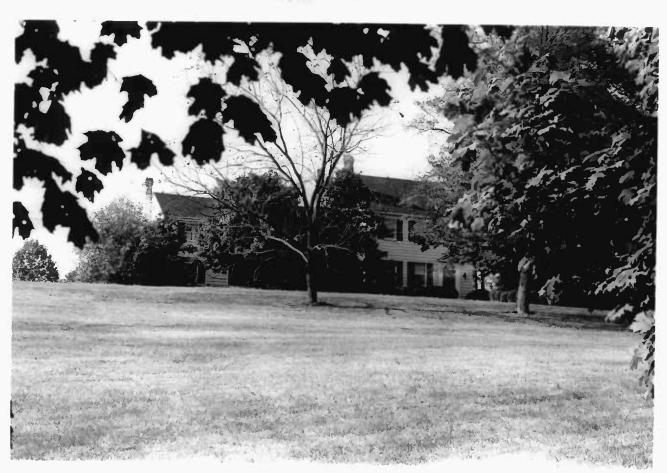
Solitude
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Hall, Looking West
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



Solitude
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Hall, Looking East
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



Solitude
Prince George's County
Marina King
May 1987
Outbuildings, NW
Neg: MD Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME SOLITUDE

LOCATION W SIDE OSBORNE Rd UPPER MARLBORD, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 10/10/74 MOWYER